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6 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

8 KENNETH L. MARTIN,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 SUMMERLIN HOSPITAL
12 THERAPY, *et al.*,

13 Defendants.

Case No.: 3:21-cv-00247-MMD-CSD

ORDER

Re: ECF No. 20

14 Before the court is Plaintiff's Motion for Appointment of Counsel (ECF No. 20). Plaintiff
15 bases his motion on the fact that (1) he suffers "with brain damage," (2) the substantive issues and
16 procedural matters in the case are too complex for Plaintiff's comprehension and abilities, and
17 (3) Plaintiff has no legal or medical training. (*Id.* at 3, 4.)

18 While any *pro se* inmate such as Mr. Martin would likely benefit from services of counsel,
19 that is not the standard this court must employ in determining whether counsel should be appointed.

20 *Wood v. Housewright*, 900 F.2d 1332, 1335-1336 (9th Cir. 1990).

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1 A litigant in a civil rights action does not have a Sixth Amendment right to appointed
2 counsel. *Storseth v. Spellman*, 654 F.2d 1349, 1353 (9th Cir. 1981). The United States Supreme
3 Court has generally stated that although Congress provided relief for violation of one's civil rights
4 under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the right to access to the courts is only a right to bring complaints to
5 federal court and not a right to discover such claims or even to litigate them effectively once filed
6 with a court. *Lewis v. Casey*, 518 U.S. 343, 354-355 (1996).

7 In very limited circumstances, federal courts are empowered to request an attorney to
8 represent an indigent civil litigant. The circumstances in which a court will grant such a request,
9 however, are exceedingly rare, and the court will grant the request under only extraordinary
10 circumstances. *United States v. 30.64 Acres of Land*, 795 F.2d 796, 799-800 (9th Cir. 1986);
11 *Wilborn v. Escalderon*, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986).

12 A finding of such exceptional or extraordinary circumstances requires that the court
13 evaluate both the likelihood of Plaintiff's success on the merits and the *pro se* litigant's ability to
14 articulate his claims in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. Neither factor is
15 controlling; both must be viewed together in making the finding. *Terrell v. Brewer*, 935 F.2d 1015,
16 1017 (9th Cir. 1991), *citing Wilborn, supra*, 789 F.2d at 1331. Thus far, Plaintiff has shown an
17 ability to articulate his claims to the court.

18 In the matter of a case's complexity, the Ninth Circuit in *Wilborn* noted that:

19 If all that was required to establish successfully the
20 complexity of the relevant issues was a demonstration of
21 the need for development of further facts, practically all
22 cases would involve complex legal issues. Thus,
23 although Wilborn may have found it difficult to
articulate his claims *pro se*, he has neither demonstrated
a likelihood of success on the merits nor shown that the

1 complexity of the issues involved was sufficient to
2 require designation of counsel.

3 The Ninth Circuit therefore affirmed the District Court's exercise of discretion in denying
4 the request for appointment of counsel because the Plaintiff failed to establish the case was
5 complex as to facts or law. 789 F.2d at 1331.

6 The substantive claim involved in this action is not unduly complex. Plaintiff's Second
7 Amended Complaint was allowed to proceed on the Fourteenth Amendment claim for inadequate
8 medical care against Defendants Perkins, Elizabeth, Marcos, Williamson, McNinney, and
9 Jane Doe Nurse, when Plaintiff discovers her identity. (ECF No. 17 at 12.) This claim is not so
complex that counsel needs to be appointed to prosecute the case.

10 Additionally, as noted in the Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiff has the assistance of
11 another inmate. (ECF No. 14 at 13.)

12 Similarly, with respect to the *Terrell* factors, Plaintiff has failed to convince the court of
13 the likelihood of success on the merits of his claims. Plaintiff has not provided any evidence, nor
14 has he made any argument in his motion for appointment of counsel, showing that he is likely to
15 prevail on the merits of his claims.

16 In the exercise of the court's discretion, it **DENIES** Plaintiff's Motion for Appointment of
17 Counsel (ECF No. 20).

18 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

19 Dated: November 21, 2022.

20 
21 CRAIG S. DENNEY
22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE